Our fourfooted friends

A publication of the Animal Rescue League of Boston ✵ Summer 1997

1997 Animal Photography Contest Winners

Frisco's Story: Discovering the Options in Treating Pets With Cancer

Animal Rescue League Offers Pet Loss Support Groups

Our fourfooted friends

Volume 94, No. 2 ✲ Summer 1997

In this issue

features

7 1997 Animal Photography Contest Winners

8 Frisco's Story: Discovering the Options in Treating Pets With Cancer

15 Animal Rescue League Offers Pet Loss Support Groups

departments

1 A Message from the President

2 Rescue News

3 A Veterinary Update

4 Newsfront

12 Animal Friends

14 Pets in the Picture

15 Gone But Not Forgotten

16 Sit Up & Beg

On the Cover

Thanks to Melissa of the Common Dog Pet Sitter Service for inviting us along on her walk. If you live in Boston proper and would like your canine friends exercised while you are at work or away, call Melissa at 617-536-9354.

Cover photo by Bob Howard.

Publisher of *our fourfooted friends*

Arthur G. Slade
Editor

Bob Howard
Photo Editor

Officers

Richard A. Hall
Chairman of the Board

Arthur G. Slade
President

Hewitt Morgan, Jr.
Treasurer

Mrs. Elizabeth D. Smith
Assistant Treasurer

John F. Sugden, Jr.
Secretary

Directors

Walter M. Bird, Jr.
Paul J. Brennan
Mrs. Alexander H. Bright
Sierra Bright
Shepard Brown
Mrs. John E. Dawson
Rev. Robert W. Golledge, D.D.
Mrs. Kenneth Gregg
Richard A. Hall
John C. Hatch
Holly Kelsey, V.M.D.
Franklin King, Jr.
Mrs. Jeffrey E. Marshall
Hewitt Morgan, Jr.
David O'Donahoe
Harold H. Seward
June E. Shank
Arthur G. Slade
Elizabeth Dick Smith
John F. Sugden, Jr.
John L. Worden III

Administrative

Edward J. Powers
Director of Operations

Barbara S. Nadeau
Director of Human Resources

Todd M. Hutchinson
Controller

Bosmat Gal, D.V.M.
Director of Veterinary Medicine

Thomas H. White
Director of Criminal Investigation and Legislative Services

Alan B. Borgal
Law Enforcement Coordinator

Laura MacFeeley
Director of Membership

Sonia L. DiTommaso
Director of Education and Public Relations

Rena Bly
Volunteer Coordinator

Animal Shelters

Boston
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts.
P. O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265
Sharon Krogh, *Manager*
(617) 426-9170

Cape Cod
Route 6A
E. Brewster, MA 02631-0023
Lynda Brogden, *Manager*
(508) 255-1030

North Shore
358 Highland Ave.
Salem, MA 01970-1744
Laura Caruso, *Manager*
(508) 744-7910

Dedham
Pine Ridge Animal Center
55 Anna's Place (At 238 Pine St.)
Dedham, MA 02026-4005
(617) 326-0729

Safford Memorial Animal Shelter
Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals
Lisa Lagos, *Manager*

Animal Friends Summer School
96 Megansett Rd.
N. Falmouth, MA 02556-0800

Visit our web site at: http://arl-boston.org

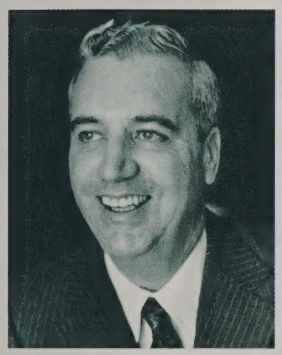
Our fourfooted friends

(US ISSN 0030 6851) Published quarterly by the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Price $4.00 a year. Office of Publication, Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Address all correspondence, editorial, subscriptions to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P. O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P. O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Second Class Postage has been paid at Boston, Massachusetts, and other mailing locations.

♻ Printed on recycled paper with environmentally friendly inks.

A Message from the President

The Cruelty Link



Arthur G. Slade
President

Our society has long been plagued by cruelty to animals and abuse toward people. These cruelties are interwoven in a vast variety of emotions creating a serious societal problem for human beings and animals.

Many of the causes of these problems have been obscured by the very secret behavior of the people committing the most vicious of such crimes.

However, studies in recent years have made it crystal clear that there is a strong correlation between cruelty to animals and the abuse of people. In recent years the American Humane Association (AHA) has examined this concern and thereby coined the term "The Link" which refers to a web of violence that begins as animal cruelty and progresses to violence toward people. The violence is a vicious cycle. Through humane education and greater communication and cooperation between animal and child welfare professionals, as well as educators, the cycle of violence can be broken and the physical and emotional abuse of animals and children can be greatly reduced.

Many of the most violent criminals in our society, including Jeffrey Dahmer and David Berkowitz, the "Son of Sam" killer, began as children by abusing animals. Animal cruelty is so common place among violent criminals that FBI profiles of serial killers are filled with histories of early animal abuse.

Thus it has become essential that cross-training take place between the animal and child welfare fields because recognizing that all victims and victimizers of abuse are interrelated is the necessary first step toward achieving the widespread action that leads to prevention.

I think the importance of humane education for children becomes extremely clear. Prevention is the only true cure in this case and the establishment of humane ideals and values in the minds of our young people is so very necessary to the mental and emotional health of future generations. Decent, family values are lost in so many ways in our society today, but teaching children to love animals and to respect life in all its many forms will go far in kindling a reverence for life that will last a lifetime. We in the humane field have many missions, but none more vital and basic to the fiber of humanity than teaching children that "Kindness Uplifts the World."

Rescue News

This domestic goose, captured at Spy Pond in Lynn, MA, suffers with a fishing lure impaled in its beak. Please remember to carefully dispose of fishing line and other materials that are dangerous and deadly to our animal friends.

Careless Disposal of Fishing Line Injures Domestic Goose

A hungry goose learned a valuable lesson recently at Flax Pond in Lynn, MA: Be careful what you fish for! What appeared to be a hearty meal was actually a fishing lure that had been carelessly discarded. The lure became painfully imbedded in his beak and he was unable to eat.

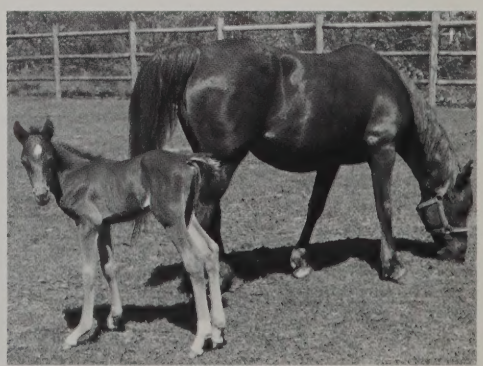
Employees from the League's Salem branch were dispatched to assist the suffering bird. Branch manager Laura Caruso, along with shelter agents Maria Richter and Xarifa Hider, were able to safely capture the goose and transport him to the Danvers Animal Hospital for treatment.

We are happy to report that the lure, along with three feet of fishing line, was removed. The goose was returned to his friends at Flax Pond later the same day. Our Salem staff reports that he was a very brave bird!

Please remember to carefully dispose of fishing line and other materials that may injure animals, such as styrofoam cups and containers, plastic bags and plastic rings from six-pack beverage containers. Consider organizing a neighborhood clean-up of a pond or park in you area. Our animal friends will benefit from your thoughtfulness.

Rescue of the Quarter Update

We would like to thank the countless thoughtful people who called to inquire about the welfare of the horses featured in our Winter Rescue of the Quarter. We are happy to announce a new arrival: "Nomad" was born in late May to "Sissy." As you can see in the picture, mare and colt are both thriving and enjoying their surroundings at the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham.



A Veterinary UPDATE

Summer 3

by Bosmat Gal, D.V. M.

Do Cats Get Heartworm Disease?

Feline heartworm disease (FHD) is a recognized problem in cats worldwide and is increasing in importance. The incidence of FHD in the United States (along with the canine version of heartworm disease) is currently confirmed in 38 states. The rate of the disease in cats is only 5-20% that of dogs but is nevertheless significant. The domestic cat has a lower disease rate because it is an atypical host—it is a susceptible host, but a more resistant heartworm disease host than the dog. Anywhere dogs are found with heartworm disease, cats will also be found, but at a lower rate. Some clinicians believe that incidence rates are artificially low worldwide due to misdiagnosis and unreported cases.

Heartworm larvae are transmitted to cats through the bite wound of an infected mosquito. These larvae develop into mature adults which travel to the heart and lung vessels. At maturity (about 6 months) the worms begin to shed proteins called antigens into the animal's bloodstream. The cat's immune system builds antibodies against these foreign substances. Mature heartworms reproduce by releasing offspring called microfilaria, which can be picked up by another feeding mosquito. The cycle is then complete and the disease continues to spread.

FHD differs in many ways from its canine counterpart. Cats have fewer and smaller heartworms than dogs. The average parasite will live in cats for two years compared with five to seven years in dogs. To cause severe disease or death the number of worms needed in cats is two while in dogs it is over ten worms. There are also some differences in the organs affected, clinical signs and diagnostics. The clinical signs for cats may be vague and nonspecific, and can include asthma-like signs, diminished appetite, vomiting, coughing, listlessness and weight loss.

FHD is difficult to diagnose because the clinical picture is not clearly defined. Diagnostic procedures are not as reliable for cats as for dogs. This is not the fault of the diagnostic procedures as much as the distinct characteristics of the typical heartworm infection in cats. However, it is still considered good medical practice to test before administering preventives.

Prevention is the key. It is safe and virtually 100% effective. Monthly medication destroys the early stages of the parasite soon after it enters the cat's body. Currently there is one preventive agent available in the United States. To decide if heartworm prevention treatment is right for your cat, please consult your veterinarian.

Do you have a question regarding general pet health? Please send it to Veterinary Update c/o the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117.

News from

League Celebrates BKAW

The first week of May is always a special time—and not just because spring is around the corner. It's also National Be Kind to Animals Week (BKAW). While we hope that we are always kind to our animal friends, there is also a special week set aside to recognize the bond we share with our pets. Humane Societies across the nation celebrate this week-long tradition by hosting programs focused on pets and their families.

The Animal Rescue League of Boston celebrated BKAW by hosting open houses at its four shelters and presenting humane awards to hero pets and people. Awards were presented at a Blessing of the Animals ceremony at the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham.

The weather was sunny and warm as Deacon Frank Winn of St. Susannah's Parish, Dedham, presided over the Blessing of the Animals. He spoke of the importance of the bond we share with our animal friends. Deacon Winn also gave individual blessings to any animal friends and owners who came forward for a personal message.

Deacon Frank Winn of St. Susannah's Parish takes time to deliver a personal blessing to a special animal friend.

League President Arthur Slade presented the 1997 Animal Rescue League of Boston Humane Awards to the following pets and people for their courageous and life-saving efforts:

Bruce Bartlett, Berlin, MA.

Mr. Bartlett and daughter Melinda rescued a dog from certain death. "Lucky" had been suffering by the side of a highway for three days before she was spotted by the Bartletts. "Lucky" had been hit by a car and had suffered massive injuries to her hips and hind quarters. During surgery, veterinarians also found two bullets lodged in her back and estimated that she had been shot two months earlier. They also estimated that the car that hit her had been traveling 65 miles an hour.

Mr. Bartlett risked his own life by crossing four lanes of busy highway traffic to reach "Lucky." We are happy to report that "Lucky" has found a loving home with her rescuers.

"Shaila" Konopacka, Stoneham, MA

"Shaila" is a very special poodle! A few months ago, she smelled smoke in the early morning hours and instinctively began to bark in an effort to alert her family to impending danger. In a letter submitted by "Shaila's" owner, Carolyn Konopacka, she wrote that she and her family wouldn't have made it out of the house if it had not been for their beloved poodle.

"Princess" Perez, Wellesley, MA

The nomination for this award was submitted by Wellesley Animal Control Officer Sue Webb. In the early morning hours a few months ago, "Princess" the German shepherd saved her family from

The 1997 Humane Awards recipients take time to pose with League President Arthur Slade (fourth from left): (l to r) Carolyn Konopacka with "Shaila," Bruce and Melinda Bartlett with "Lucky," Mr. Slade, Sue Webb with David Perez and "Princess," Christian Samuel and Lori Carvalho with "C.C." and "Molly."

a devastating fire. "Princess" barked and the fire alarm sounded, but owner David Perez couldn't rouse himself from sleep until "Princess" jumped on him and licked his face. He woke in time to get his nephew and everyone out of the apartment, and to reach the barn below to rescue the cows, sheep and newborn lambs. "Princess" is a true hero.

Christian Samuel, Bellingham, MA

One morning, Christian was driving to work and spotted a little brown dog tied so tightly to a pole that its legs were hanging off the ground. Upon closer inspection and after ten minutes with a pair of rope cutters, Christian found that the dog had several wounds. "C.C." required surgery to close a large wound around her neck. A four-inch stick that had been jammed into her side was also found and removed. Thanks to Christian and his girlfriend Lori, "C.C." has recovered and has found a lasting, loving home with them and their Lhasa apso, "Molly."

Brian Wheelock, Attleboro, MA

One day as Brian was on duty managing a sporting goods store, an employee alerted him to strange activity near a manhole cover on the street outside. The manhole cover was removed and a scared rabbit was discovered trapped in the bottom of the storm drain. After keeping a vigil for several hours, Brian obtained a jumpsuit and ladder and climber down into the 12-foot drain to rescue his new animal friend. The rabbit now lives with Brian and has been named "Phoenix."

Humane Award recipients pose outside the League's Brewster shelter: (l to r) Emily Webb, "Honey" the Beagle, and Mark Murray, who accepted the award on behalf of "Winston" and "Shelby."

The following awards were presented at the League's Brewster shelter:

Mark Murray, Mashpee

This award was presented to Mark in memory of his two Labrador retrievers, "Shelby" and her five year-old offspring, "Winston," who saved their owner from a deadly fire, but were unable to reach safety themselves. Mark tried in vain to reach his beloved pets, but the fire spread too rapidly.

Emily Webb, East Falmouth

In August, 1996, Emily's beagle, "Honey" was missing for six days before finally being found below the street trapped in a drainage ditch. A neighbor's beagle, "Barney" was also trapped. Emily risked injury to herself by climbing down a ladder into the ditch to reach the dogs. She was able to lift them above her head to safety. Well done, Emily!

The Animal Rescue League of Boston presents Humane Awards annually during Be Kind to Animals Week. If you know someone who deserves an award, please send a letter detailing the event to: The Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117.

AHA Cat Seminar

The Animal Rescue League of Boston recently hosted its first regional seminar in conjunction with the American Humane Association. The seminar, on cat behavior, attracted 36 men and women from 13 humane organizations or animal control departments. The two-day event was conducted by Suzanne Hetts, PhD, a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist who has authored behavior columns and co-authored a book on pet loss.

The history and behavior of cats was covered, with special emphasis on the needs of cats in shelters. Littterbox problems, which are one of the main reasons owners surrender their cats, were discussed in depth. The League would like to thank the American Humane Asssociation, Suzanne Hetts, PhD, and League staff member, Allison Vinkels, who coordinated the event, for its success.

Mr. Slade presents Lubov Agranov with the Volunteer of the Year Award for outstanding service to the League.

American Humane Association Board President Loretta Kowal, LICSW, captures the attention of the audience as she delivers her presentation on the link between animal cruelty and domestic abuse.

League President Arthur Slade presents MDC Commissioner David Balfour with an award recognizing his humane efforts in a feline rescue.

Annual Meeting Hosts AHA Board President

The League's annual meeting was held April 24 at the Boston headquarters. Featured speaker Loretta Kowal, LICSW, president of the National Board of Directors for the American Humane Association, gave a powerful presentation on the link between animal cruelty and child abuse. Her message educated those in attendance about the need for humane education and cross-training between child and animal welfare professionals. The editorial by League President Arthur Slade in this issue of *our fourfooted friends* also highlights the vicious cycle of violence and the need for early intervention.

MDC Commissioner David Balfour received an award recognizing his efforts in the rescue of a cat in December 1996. Featured in the Fall '96 Rescue of the Quarter, Commissioner Balfour assisted League personnel in the late-night rescue of a feline trapped in a statue on Boston's Longfellow Bridge. By placing a much-needed call, the Commissioner was able to secure proper equipment and operators to release the overly curious cat who was later returned to his relieved owners.

Get Ready for Petoberfest '97

Preparations are underway for Petoberfest '97! Once again, the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham will be the place to be on Saturday, October 4. Geared toward family participation, Petoberfest '97 will feature children's activities including a pet show and face painting, as well as music, craft tables, humane education presentations, animals in the paddocks, baked goodies, demonstrations and the very popular professional auction.

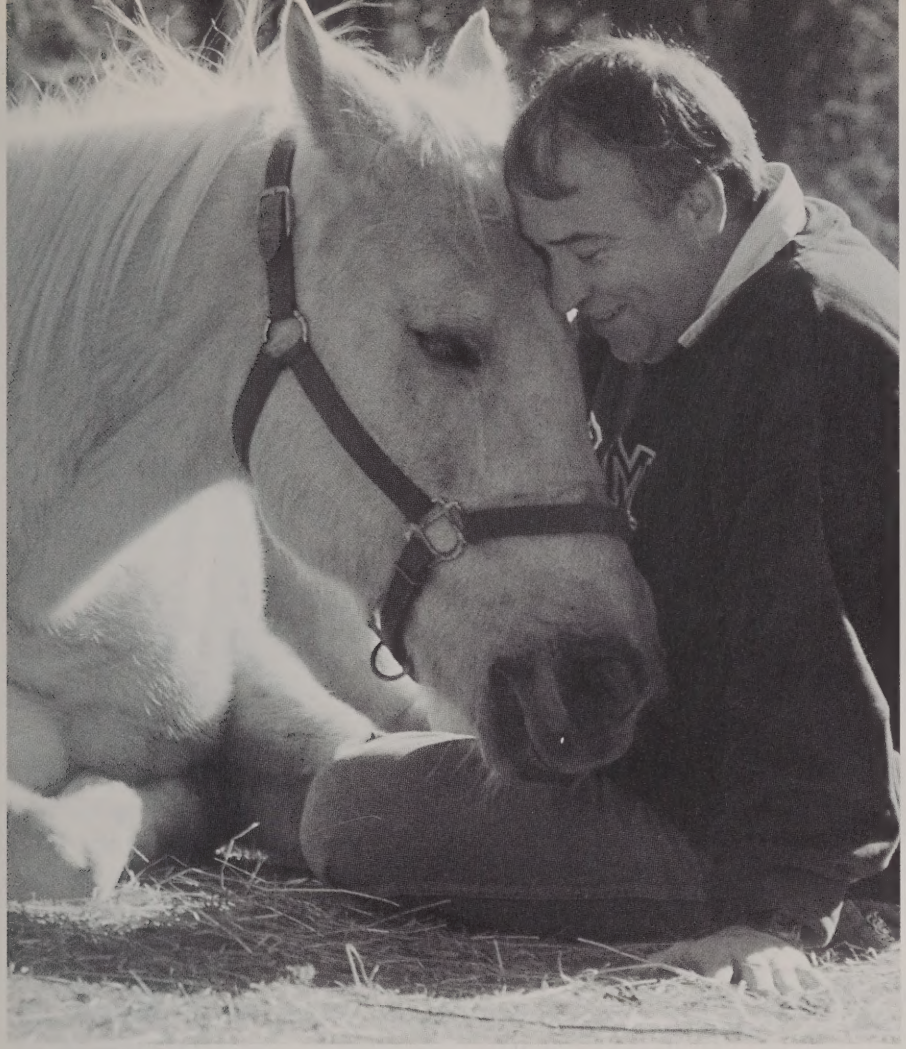
Proceeds from the event will help to establish a fund for a League-sponsored low-cost spay/neuter program. Volunteers are needed to help solicit auction items, post flyers, and work at the event. If you are interested in participating, please call Volunteer Coordinator Rena Bly, at 617-426-9170, ext. 126. See you in October!

Is your pet due for a rabies shot?

Rabies vaccinations protect us all. A scratch or bite from an animal can be harmless or it can be fatal. While the number of rabies cases reported in 1996 dropped from the previous year, rabies continues to be a serious concern in Massachusetts.

This spring the Animal Rescue League of Boston continued its dedicated effort to offer low-cost rabies vaccines at convenient times and locations. Dr. Bosmat Gal vaccinated over 400 dogs and cats at this year's clinics, which were held at League headquarters and at two Boston fire stations. The City of Boston Animal Control Property Management Department was also on hand to issue dog licenses. Thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers; each clinic ran smoothly.

Don't forget to check if your pet's rabies vaccination is up to date. (FYI - Ferrets are also required by law to be vaccinated for rabies.)



1st Place: Janis Nelson, Spencer, MA; "Bob and Bailey" enjoy a quiet moment

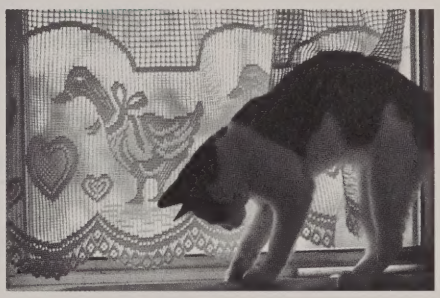
1997 Animal Photography Contest Winners

The Animal Rescue League of Boston would like to thank everyone who participated in the 1997 Animal Pet Photography Contest. We received over 120 submissions which were displayed at our four shelter locations during Be Kind to Animals Week.

We would also like to thank professional photographers Bob Howard and Jim Mahoney for their efforts in judging the contest. Photos were judged on composition and content. The bond we share with our animal friends was the theme. Our judges report that their job was far from easy and every picture was a winner in its own way.

Adult Division:

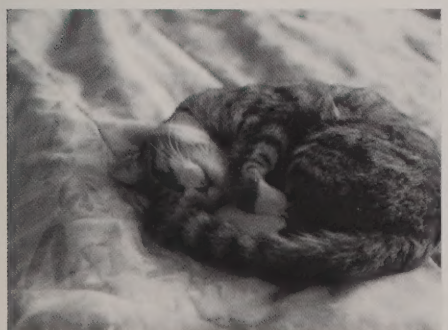
2nd Place: Rita Pelrine, Framingham, MA



3rd Place: Rick Young, North Scituate, MA

Honorable mention: (Not shown)
Suzanne Berry, Norton, MA
Paula Lichter, Framingham, MA

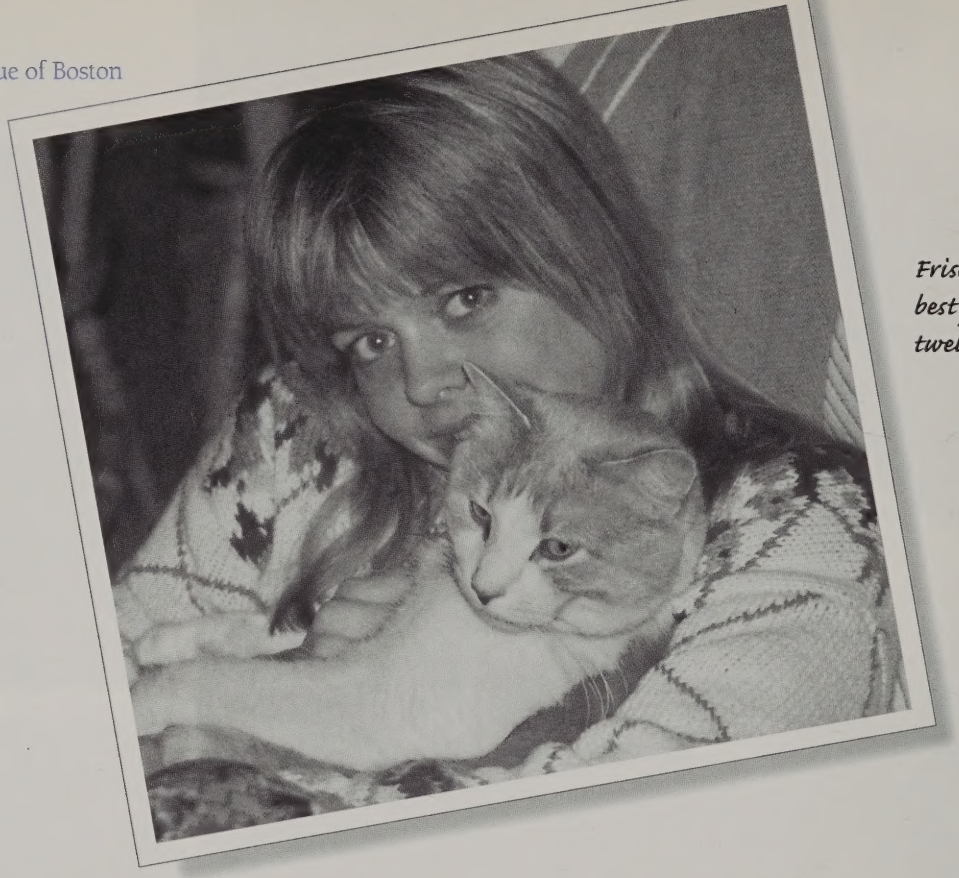
Junior Division:



1st Place: Liz Simmons, Sudbury, MA

2nd Place: Jennifer Cahoun, Harwich, MA

3rd Place: Sara-Elizabeth Blair, Waynesboro, GA



Frisco was my best friend for twelve years.

Frisco's Story: Discovering the Options in Treating Pets With Cancer

by Laurel Wellman

As I turned on my computer, a light flashed to indicate that I had an e-mail message. Words jumped off the screen at me saying: "Hi, it kinda upset me when I read that your cat has cancer, but what most upset me is that you chose to put it on chemo. If the cat means the world to you, why put it through all that pain and discomfort?"

"I think you're only caring about yourself," the message continued. "My cat was diagnosed for cancer and we put him to sleep. He was dying in my arms. I loved him so much, and I couldn't bear to watch him suffer."

That message turned my world upside down. I had told my story on a computer bulletin board because I was looking for support and advice. My mind was suddenly spinning, full of doubts and self-judgment. I almost changed my mind. If I had, I would have missed three wonderful years with my cat, Frisco. He died recently, but his quality of life during his "extra" years was excellent. I called them his "extra" years because without the wonders of modern veterinary medicine he would have died soon after he was first diagnosed.

Veterinary medicine is surprisingly sophisticated. Animals can be treated for complex diseases, such as cancer. Dogs get cancer at the same rate as humans while cats have a somewhat lower rate. Since pets are defenseless and cannot speak for themselves, the treatment of cancer creates strange and complex ethical issues for owners and doctors alike.

Many people consider their pet a valued member of the family. When a family member gets sick they feel compelled to do everything to help them. Others consider a pet akin to a toy, and if the toy is broken they would prefer to buy another one rather than fix it.

It isn't just a question of how much you love your pet. According to Dr. Anthony Cosimini of Wellesley-Natick Veterinary Hospital, "Money is an issue as well as age of the pet, potential outcome, and what percentage return to normal the pet will have."

I was in the kitchen cooking dinner the night Dr. Cosimini called to tell me Frisco had cancer. Frisco had been vomiting and losing weight for months and every test thus far had been negative. The first

thing Dr. Cosimini said was that the test results were worse than we had suspected, but even that didn't prepare me. He broke the news gently and gave me medical information about Frisco's diagnosis but I wasn't really listening. I was in shock. He encouraged me to call him back when I had a chance to come up with more questions about Frisco's condition and potential treatment (and I did many times). Dr. Cosimini also recommended the names of a few oncologists.

After he hung up that night I sank to the floor and started sobbing with the phone still in my hand. I was in agony having to wait until the next morning to make an appointment for Frisco to see an oncologist. I wanted to make the right decision for Frisco.

Over the next few days I was so confused. It was difficult trying to make such a major decision while being pulled in so many directions. Even though Frisco was right there rubbing up against me as I wept, I was grief stricken over his "death." I was terrified when I imagined the suffering he would endure as his condition worsened. I'd never heard of a pet being treated for cancer so I didn't know if it was realistic to get my hopes up over treatment. My parents, although they loved Frisco, kept reminding me that I had to take the cost of treatment into consideration.

I was an emotional wreck when I arrived at Tufts New England Veterinary Medical Center in North Grafton, Massachusetts, with my sister, Linda, along for moral support. I don't know who was shaking more—Frisco or me—as we waited to meet Dr. Susan Cotter, oncologist and professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. The first thing I noticed about Frisco's oncologist was that she was wearing a turtleneck decorated with cats. Somehow that was reassuring.

Dr. Cotter believes in treating the "team" of owner and pet. She says, "We have to make sure that our objectives and the owners expectations match up. I think that's real important."

"The other issue that we talk about is what is involved with the treatment. We expect that there may be some risk that the medication might make the animal sick, but if it does we can make adjustments and lower the doses."

Another determining factor is time. Dr. Cotter explains: "Time is an issue, especially in the beginning when they have to come in pretty frequently (in the case of chemotherapy), if they live far away or if they have a job were they have to take time off."

Choosing to treat an animal with cancer is a big commitment. It is a decision that cannot be made lightly. The best interest of the animal must certainly be considered but so must time, energy, finances, emotional strength and the willingness to let go when the time is right. Personally, I found caring for the furry friend who had given me so much over the years to be very rewarding.

My cat, Frisco, meant the world to me. His illness at times took over my life. Yet, I didn't mind the hour-long trips to see his oncologist at Tufts, making special meals when he had no appetite (including baking my first turkey just for him), or the more than $3,000 it cost me to treat him over three years. His presence in my life had been a joy in good times and in bad.

It is devastating to lose a pet who has become a beloved member of the family. Many of these animals have been the only constant in our daily lives for 10 to 20 years. Frisco was my best friend for 12 years. When Frisco's cancer came out of remission a whole slew of symptoms hit him at once over a course of two weeks. He was truly suffering. The decision to have him euthanized was incredibly painful but remarkably easy. He didn't have the strength to fight and I knew that because I had seen him when he did have the strength to fight the first time around. It is a great comfort as I grieve to remind myself that I did all I could for him and that he enjoyed the "extra" three years we had together as much as I did. I wish that I had known then what I know now. It would have been far less frightening.

Cancer is a frightening specter. Even the cure for the disease is associated with pain and suffering. People might assume that it would be in the best interest of the pet to put it to sleep in order to spare the animal the trauma of treatment. In some cases this is true, but often the prospects are good.

"We treat cancers differently for people than we do for animals and part of the reason is time," Dr. Cosimini says. "If we are 40 years of age and have cancer, the potential, if we cure the cancer, is we will live another 30 to 40 years. But with an animal, the potential is that they might live two to three more years.

"Rather than treating to cure, a lot of times we treat for control," says Dr. Cosimini. "We get them into remission and keep them in remission as long as possible, but don't go for all out [tumor] kill. We are trying not to make them nauseous, upset or unhealthy while we are doing the chemotherapeutic regime. We're more trying to keep them comfortable, happy and a member of the family. They don't have the hair loss that humans typically have nor the vomiting, diarrhea, and the just 'I feel miserable because I am going through chemotherapy'. This is because we typically don't go to the degree of 'we're going to almost death killing every single cell of cancer,' instead 'we are going to control the cancer so they have less side effects.'"

"For cats, sometimes the ride in the car is as bad as the treatment," says Dr. Cotter.

In the middle of his treatment, Frisco still managed to jump onto the railing of my parents' deck and then climb onto the connecting roof (much to my dismay).

Ironically, pets do not lose much 'hair' because most animals actually have fur, which is not as affected by chemotherapy. A poodle, which has hair rather than fur, would be more likely to lose a great deal of hair as people often do. In Frisco's case, he only lost his whiskers. I was probably more upset about it than Frisco; eventually his whiskers grew back.

"We tend to be a little more conservative, try to make quality of life the most important," says Dr. Cotter. "To be honest, though, I'm not sure we would get many more long term survivors even if we pushed harder. We have had new situations when we have tried out new treatments and pushed beyond what we normally do, and sometimes those animals haven't survived a lot longer than the ones where we have been more conservative."

"It's true, I think, we are a little bit less aggressive and maybe we do lose something in the sense of longevity. But, if they wind up in the hospital all the time or if they are constantly sick at home, it kind of takes away from what I think a pet is really for."

The theme of quality of life reverberates throughout my conversations with veterinarians and pet owners. Dr. Cotter told me about a hunting dog who continued to go hunting with his owner while undergoing treatment.

In the middle of his treatment, Frisco still managed to jump onto the railing of my parents' deck and then climb onto the connecting roof (much to my dismay). Exercise is encouraged during treatment, but wounds should be avoided since the immune system is suppressed. Therefore, doctors encourage owners to continue their pets normal routines, but recommend that outdoor cats be kept inside so that they don't get into fights.

Cancer treatments for humans as well as animals are constantly updated. Dr. Cotter works at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, where they not only treat pets but are also involved in research. She stated that "cancer is a little different from other diseases in that things get tried pretty early in people (as well as animals) because there will be cases where they have tried everything and nothing has worked and so they try drugs that are pretty early along in experimental trials." She further explains, "An important role that animals can play in research is that some experimental treatments can be tried as the first treatment if other options are available, so chances for response are better than in 'heavily pretreated' humans."

Dr. Cotter was quick to assure me that veterinarians "do not do experimental treatment unless the owner knows about it."

One particularly interesting and promising study, which was funded by the Morris Animal Foundation, has developed a diet for dogs which combined with traditional treatments can slow the progression of malignant tumors. The diet was developed by Gregory Ogilvie, DVM, and his team of specialists at Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Ogilvie says, "The diet is not a cure for cancer but it is an effective treatment that can improve a dog's quality of life and enable it to respond more positively to cancer treatment in most cases. Because cancer permanently affects a dog's metabolism, it is important that the dog remain on the diet throughout its life." The study pertains only to dogs, but a study to produce a similar diet for cats may not be far behind.

The three predominant cancer treatments currently used on animals (and humans) are chemotherapy,

Dr. Gal administers an IV to Mystery similar to one which would be used for chemotherapy.

radiation or surgical removal of the cancerous tumor. Depending on the type of tumor, one or a combination of these approaches is used. Other less commonly used therapies are hyperthermia (heating), cryosurgery (freezing), and immunotherapy.

Each type of cancer is different. Surgical removal of a tumor offers a good success rate for many cancers. Chemotherapy is around 50 percent effective in attaining remission for at least a year with most lymphomas. On the other hand, the treatment of skin lymphoma is thus far not very successful. Statistics such as these, discussed with your doctor, should play a role in your decision about treatment. But remember, each cancer and each pet is different.

The causes of many cancers in animals are unknown. Currently, viruses (including a retrovirus called feline leukemia virus), genetic predisposition, and environmental toxins are considered to be the most likely causes. Neutering a female animal early in life is known to reduce the chances of breast cancer. For this reason, and because of overpopulation, veterinarians recommend that any pet not intended for breeding purposes be neutered. White cats are particularly susceptible to skin cancer, so their exposure to sunlight should be limited.

"Cancer is treatable," says Dr. Cotter, who wants every animal lover to know that they "shouldn't assume cancer is fatal."

Early diagnosis is crucial for successful treatment of cancer. Pet owners need to pay attention to their pet, recognize changes in behavior, and look for any new lumps on their pet.

Pet owners should play an active role in their pet's medical care. Ask questions. If your pet suffers from unexplained symptoms and your veterinarian says to wait and see if the problem gets worse, you should consider seeing a different veterinarian. If your veterinarian tells you your pet has cancer and doesn't give you a number of treatment options, you should consider seeing a different veterinarian.

"If you don't like the answer, it is important to ask for a second opinion," explains Dr. Cosimini. "Typically, going for a second opinion means going to a specialist hospital rather than just going down the street to the next vet hospital and saying 'what do you think?'" In Massachusetts the two largest veterinary hospitals specializing in treating animals with cancer are Tufts New England Veterinary Medical Center and Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. Both hospitals have recently added state-of-the-art radiation therapy facilities.

When the diagnosis is cancer, no one can decide for you what to do. Holding your best friend's paw through chemotherapy, daily pill-swallowing, and countless trips to the veterinarian is not easy. It is not fun. Even if the animal has a realistic chance of remission, you must think carefully if you are willing to devote the time and money to treat your animal. In my experience it was worth it; after going through this Frisco was even more of a joy to me. It felt so good to watch him do everyday normal things. I didn't even mind when he begged for table scraps or bit my toes while I was sleeping! Hearing the word cancer in the veterinary office will always be frightening. At least now we know that there are options and in many cases there is hope.

Common Signs of Cancer in Small Animals according to the American Veterinarian Medical Association:

- Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
- Sores that do not heal
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
- Offensive odor
- Difficulty eating or swallowing
- Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
- Persistent lameness or stiffness
- Difficulty breathing, urinating, or defecating

Animal Fri

A special feature for our younger readers

Oh Deer! It's Tick Time Again!

Sheilagh's dog, Artex, was just not being himself. Usually an energetic dog, he had become quite sluggish and stopped eating. It was almost as if he had come down with the "doggy-flu." Sheilagh knew it would be best if Artex was seen by his veterinarian, Dr. Vetterman, as soon as possible.

On her way to visit Dr. Vetterman, Sheilagh remembered how Artex loved to play and romp outdoors. In late spring the weather had become quite warm, and Artex and Sheilagh had spent some time outdoors exploring the nature trails down the road from their house. The ground had thawed and the grass was a luscious green. Artex looked for toys or tennis balls he may have stored over the winter in the underbrush. Sheilagh hoped that Dr. Vetterman would have an answer to Artex's problem.

During the exam, Dr. Vetterman wanted to know what Artex was normally like and what symptoms he seemed to have now. Sheilagh told him what she had been thinking about in the car. Dr. Vetterman took Artex's temperature and found that he was running a slight fever.

"Hmm." Dr. Vetterman paused. "Let's get a blood test done. It sounds as if ol' Artex here may have Lyme Disease."

"What is Lyme Disease?" asked Sheilagh.

"Lyme Disease is actually a bacteria that is spread by a small tick, called the deer tick. The tick attaches itself to the skin of the dog and sucks its blood, while possibly transferring this tiny bacteria into the dog. Humans and other mammals can get Lyme Disease too. Usually the deer tick will go unnoticed, especially because of its size, which is usually no larger than a period at the end of a sentence."

Sheilagh said she had actually taken some ticks off Artex recently after walks on the nature trails.

"Those ticks were most likely dog ticks, which are more easily seen than deer ticks. Or they may have been deer ticks that had eaten Artex's blood and became what we call engorged—or filled with blood," Dr. Vetterman said. "Don't you worry too much though Sheilagh. Lyme Disease is usually very treatable with antibiotics, just like you would use if you had a cold. But let me give you some advice so that you can protect yourself and Artex against ticks:

- When hiking on nature trails, stick to the open trails. Ticks hide in the underbrush and are more likely to jump on you if you go exploring.
- Keep grass and weeds in your lawn mowed below ankle height.
- Use spray, dips, or powders on Artex to deter ticks. Read the labels on the bottles of these products to make sure you use them properly and safely.
- Before going inside, give yourself and your animal a head-to-tail check. Look at places where ticks might be most comfortable. They like to make their home in nice warm places, such as behind the ears, or under the legs or armpits.

If you happen to find a tick, Dr. Vetterman said:

- If it is not attached yet, spray the tick first and then comb it out with a flea comb or fine-toothed comb.
- If the tick is already attached, take a pair of tweezers and grasp gently at the place where the tick enters the skin. Then tug a little and pull the tick out.
- REMEMBER, DON'T USE A MATCH TO GET THE TICK OUT. YOU MAY END UP BURNING YOUR PET OR YOURSELF!

And you may be wondering what you should do with the tick once you have it out:

- Place it in a jar with rubbing alcohol and put a lid on it, and date the outside of the jar (you can use little medicine vials).
- If any symptoms appear following the tick bite, the tick in the vile can be tested by your veterinarian.

"Remember, Sheilagh, the information I have given you is only for you to prevent Lyme Disease," Dr. Vetterman said. "It is not meant to make you afraid to go outside. Just make sure you use the proper precautions and you should be safe."

ends

Dear Kory,

No offense to you—but when I look at your picture, I think you're kind of old. When our pets get old, what should we do for them?

Signed,
My Pets Are Getting Old Too

Dear My Pets Are Getting Old Too,
First of all, you are correct in your impression that I am aged. (Good observation—I must color that gray in my muzzle.) Great question indeed, and there are some things to consider. First, I don't need as many calories in my diet as I did when I was a pup because I'm slowing down a little and to become overweight would be unhealthy for me. However, it is important that I still get plenty of exercise and fresh air—it's what I really enjoy. Just remember, I can't go on forever, and the weather bothers me a little more, especially when it's too cold, wet, or hot. Think of what's best for me.

Although I'm active, I shouldn't be made to run too far, too fast, or to jump a lot because I might injure my old bones and joints. Finally, keep a close watch on me for signs of failing sight, hearing or teeth problems. In addition, check me frequently for lumps, bumps and sores. Other than this, just keep taking great care of me, just like always, and love me forever.

Hey Kids!

Do you have a question for Kory? Write in and if your question gets published in *Our Fourfooted Friends* magazine, you'll receive a free autographed picture of Kory, and an Animal Rescue League t-shirt. Send your questions to:

Questions for Kory
The Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

If you or someone you know has been performing good deeds on behalf of our animal friends, send us a photo and letter with all the details! If we publish your story, we'll send you a League t-shirt! Send entries to:

Friend of the Quarter
Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117
Participants must be twelve years of age or younger.

friend of the quarter

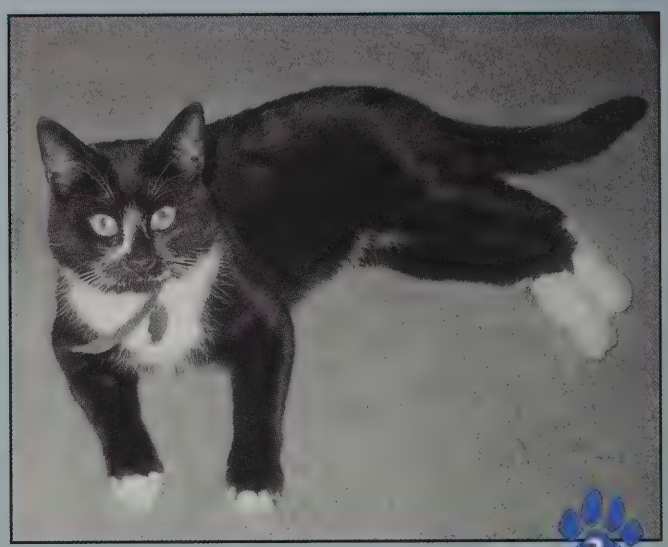
Ryan Wicks of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, has been very busy and devoted to helping our animal friends.

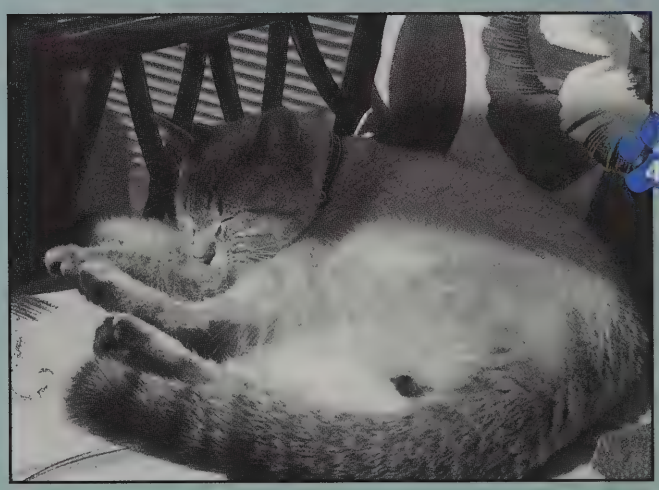
Our friend of the quarter comes from another state—not even in New England! Our friend is nine-year-old Ryan C. Wicks of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, who lives on a private school campus with his family. (Dad is a faculty member.) Ryan has continually shown a true commitment to and love for animals, both pet and wild.

Ryan has made three donations to the ARL-Boston. He had the Tooth Fairy deliver his usual reward to us on two occasions to help our animal friends. His most recent contribution was a sizeable one, which he raised by selling T-shirts, hats and bags.

Ryan had told his parents he wanted a way to raise money to help animals. They found a source in a book on fundraising, and that's all Ryan needed. He ordered his packet and began his search for interested individuals. He filled out all the orders, collected the money, did the calculations, and then delivered the merchandise, all with the support and encouragement of Mom and Dad. Great job, Ryan, and on behalf of our animal friends, we thank you!

Pets in the





1.

"Simon," adopted from the Brewster Branch, "couldn't be a more delightful dog," writes Kimberly Sansoucy of Cambridge. She added, "We adore him—even our cats like him!"

2.

Rose McKechnie of Natick shared a picture of "Shadow" with us. She says, "he is a lovely cat and filled (our) lives with so much joy. He takes over the household."

3.

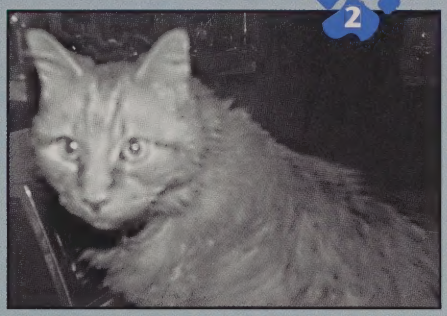
"Angel," the Rotti, is pictured with her new friend "Haley." "Angel" was adopted by a Norfolk family who tell us that "she is very friendly and lovable and everyone loves her, too."

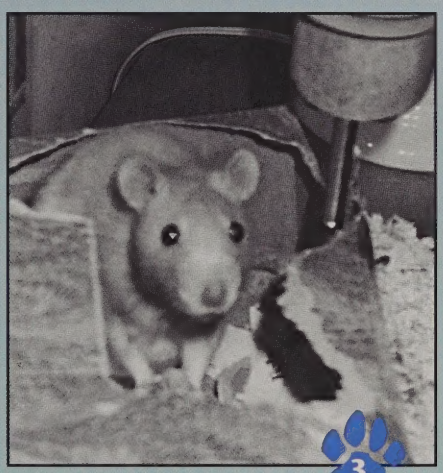
4.

"Abner" Gilson sent a letter himself about his new life with 'parents' Ron and Joan Gilson of Gloucester. "Abner" 'writes,' "each night we all go to bed together (I have a nice fluffy blanket on the floor) but I sleep with my parents—usually between them." Sounds like "Abner" has made himself right at home.

Picture

Gone But Not Forgotten





1. *"Alex"*

Three words say it all. Joseph Rugnetta of Medfield remembers his canine companion, Alex , as "my best friend."

2. *"Sandy"*

Frank Terra of Marshfield remembers fondly the times when he would pat his chest and "Sandy" would come running and leap right up on him. The Terra's will never forget "Sandy."

3. *"Carmelina"*

Rebecca Hutchinson writes, "Who would have thought a rat would win the hearts of so many people. "Carmelina" had a friendly demeanor and warmly greeted every visitor to her cage. She is missed by her family, including her special buddy, Ethel, the cat."

4. *"Buddy"*

Linda Peters adopted "Buddy" as a puppy from the Salem shelter. "Buddy had such a zest for life," she remembers. Though she's "lost the most wonderful pet in the world," Linda is grateful for the "11 years of memories that bring a smile to (her) face."

When It's Hard to Say Goodbye:

Animal Rescue League to Offer Pet Loss Support Groups this Fall.

The loss of a beloved pet, whether by illness, accident, disappearance, euthanasia or natural causes, can be an intensely painful experience. In valuing the lives of our animals, we naturally grieve when they die.

The Animal Rescue League recognizes the end of a pet's life as a critical time when support and caring can make a big difference. So, in order to help loving pet owners say goodbye, the Animal Rescue League will offer pet loss support groups beginning this fall. The groups will be led by Marcia Lowry Maloney, a licensed counselor and League member. They will be structured, time-limited and available at low cost to anyone who has lost a pet.

If you are interested in participating in a group or have questions about pet loss, please call 617-426-9170, ext. 126.

Sit Up & Beg

The staff at the League has come up with the following "wish list" of items that would add to the safety, care, or comfort of our animal friends. If you would like to donate any of these items, or contribute toward the purchase of a piece of equipment, please call (617) 426-9170.

Thank You

Thank you to the many thoughtful animal lovers and pet owners who take time to stop at our shelter locations to drop off blankets and towels. Your kindness provides comfort and warmth.

8mm Camcorder with 3" LCD screen
Would be used to tape rescues for educational training purposes; $600.

Towels and blankets
Used to line cages for comfort and warmth. (Even in the summertime we still need your donations.)

Business Owners/Managers to Display Donation Boxes
If you would like to put a dog house donation box in your place of business, please call 617-426-9170, ext. 109. We will arrange for you to pick up the box at the nearest of our four shelters. You will then be responsible for emptying the box periodically and sending in the donations.

Cat and Dog Toys (still in packaging)
Studies show that an animal with a toy in its cage is more likely to be selected for adoption. Toys also help to reduce the stress level of the animal while it is in the shelter.

Camcorder (any type)
Would be used by law enforcement and public relations to document abuse and neglect cases as well as for educational purposes.

Petoberfest '97 Auction items
We are in need of items and/or services for our professional auction. Are you or do you know a business owner who can donate a product or service for auction? Please call 617-426-9170, ext. 119.

Volunteer Corner

It has been a very busy spring for our League volunteers! These dedicated individuals donated their free time to assist at our annual Rabies Clinics, the Bunny Brunch, and on a monthly basis in our shelters. The League extends a special thank-you to the following volunteers for their help and hard work at the Rabies Clinics and the Bunny Brunch: Lynda Beltz, Jennifer Brusic, Kellie Bryan, Robin Pawlak, Martha Byington, Dorothy Eckstein, Emily Raymer, Leslie Van Raalte, Jennifer Robinson, Bobby Walker, and Stacy Barraclough. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

On April 24 at the Annual Meeting, Lubov Agranov was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Lubov has devoted endless hours to the League and has enthusiastically completed even the most mundane projects for us. Her tireless efforts are greatly appreciated! Congratulations, Lubov!

We are currently recruiting volunteers to assist us with special events. If you are interested in becoming a special events volunteer, or would like to find out more about the volunteer program in general, please contact Rena Bly at (617) 426-9170, ext. 126.

Show Your Support!

Show your support and help spread awareness of the Animal Rescue League of Boston by wearing and using these new League items!

All of these promotional items may be purchased at League locations in Boston, Brewster, Dedham and Salem, or may be ordered by mail. Colors are blue and white.

T-Shirt
(S, M, L, XL)
$10.00 ea.
Children's
(S, M, L)
$7.00 ea.

Sweatshirt
(S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.
Children's
(S, M, L)
$15.00 ea.

Sweatpants
(S, M, L, XL)
$18.00 ea.

Blue Ribbon Pin
$5.00 ea.

Ceramic Coffee Mug
$3.00 ea.

Tote Bag
$12.00 ea.

Please send me:

Quantity	Item	Size	Cost
Total *(Please add $3.00 for shipping and handling for orders $10 and over or if ordering two or more ceramic mugs.)*			

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of $ ____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. (Please remember shipping and handling charge if applicable.) Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Mail to: **Animal Rescue League of Boston**
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

Mark Your Calendar!

Please join us for these upcoming League events. If you have questions or would like to assist at an event, please call Volunteer Coordinator Rena Bly at 617-426-9170, ext. 126.

JULY

26 Animal Friends Pet Show

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.
Rain Date: Sunday, July 27
Nye Field, North Falmouth

OCTOBER

4 Petoberfest

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Rain Date: Sunday, October 5
Dedham Branch

Our fourfooted friends (US ISSN 0030 6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265 Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Address Correction Requested